

Message Text

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71/42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 AF-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 151559Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9462

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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C O R R E T E D C O P Y - T E X T

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: FRANCO'S CONDITION CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

REF: MADRID 4420

BEGIN SUMMARY: FRANCO'S CONDITION REPORTEDLY CONTINUES TO IMPROVE, AMID SPECULATION HE WILL LEAVE HOSPITAL JULY 16 BUT MAY NOT ATTEND TRADITIONAL JULY 18 RECEPTION FOR GOVERNMENT AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS. END SUMMARY.

1. HOSPITAL BULLETINS AND NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS DURING RECENT DAYS REFLECT CONTINUED OPTIMISM AND REPORT STEADY PROGRESS FRANCO'S HEALTH DURING HIS CURRENT HOSPITALIZATION.

2. SPANISH PRESS SPECULATES FRANCO WILL BE RELEASED FROM
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HOSPITAL AND RETURN TO PARDO PALACE ON TUESDAY, JULY 16,

ALTHOUGH THERE IS AS YET NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THIS.

3. IN MEANTIME, FRANCO HAS REPORTEDLY CONTINUED RECEIVE IN THE HOSPITAL NUMEROUS SPANISH GOVERNMENT FIGURES AND POLITICIANS. MOST FREQUENT OFFICIAL VISITORS, WHOM FRANCO HAS SEEN EVERY DAY, USUALLY FOR AN HOUR OR MORE EACH TIME, HAVE BEEN PRINCE JUAN CARLOS AND PRIME MINISTER ARIAS.

4. SPECULATION REGARDING POSSIBLE DESIGNATION OF JUAN CARLOS PROVISIONAL CHIEF OF STATE HAS SUBSIDED WITH FRANCO'S IMPORVING HEALTH.

5. INTEREST NOW FOCUSED ON 18 JULY NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS COMMEMORATING NATIONALIST UPRISING 38 YEARS AGO. IT HAS ALREADY BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT PRINCE JUAN CARLOS WILL STAND IN FOR FRANCO AT A MORNING CEREMONY ON 18TH IN WHICH CERTIFICATES OF MERIT ARE HANDED OUT TO WORKERS OF SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION. BIG QUESTION MARK, HOWEVER, IS WHETHER FRANCO WILL ATTEND THE TRADITIONAL NATIONAL DAY AFTERNOON RECEPTION HE HAS ALWAYS HOSTED FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND GOVERNMENT AT LA GRANJA PALACE. THERE WIDESPREAD BELIEF IT UNLIKELY THAT FRANCO, EVEN THOUGH HE WILL PROBABLY HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL BY THEN, WOULD BE ALLOWED BY HIS DOCTORS TO ATTEND THIS MAJOR SOCIAL FUNCTION WHICH NORMALLY REQUIRES HIS STANDING FOR SEVERAL HOURS TO GREET GUESTS, AND THAT HIS PLACE LIKELY TO BE TAKEN BY JUAN CARLOS.
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